

Applicant : Shimon Sakaguchi
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US

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 10-12, 14-17, and 19-20, without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A mouse which is derived from a mouse strain homozygous for the genes causing the natural onset of rheumatoid arthritis, wherein an embryo of the mouse strain is deposited as accession no. FERM BP-7790 with the International Patent Organism Depository belongs to the isolated mouse strain of claim 12, and has ATCC accession No. FERM BP-7790.

14-17. (Canceled)

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18. (Currently Amended) A The method for producing a mouse strain, deposited as accession no. FERM BP-7790 with the International Patent Organism Depository, being homozygous for the genes causing the natural onset of rheumatoid arthritis, comprising the steps of:

- (a) repeated mating between mice in a maintained colony to produce offspring; and
 - (b) screening the offspring for the trait of developing natural onset of rheumatoid arthritis
- of claim 17, wherein the mouse strain is the mouse strain from an embryo deposited as ATCC accession No. BP-7790.

19-20. (Canceled)

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--21. (New) The mouse of claim 13, wherein a symptom of the rheumatoid arthritis is selected from the group consisting of: arthritis in a foreleg or hind leg joint, joint stiffening, appearance of pannus, lymphocyte infiltration into joint cartilage or bone, destruction of joint cartilage or bone, production of rheumatoid factor or autoantibody against type II collagen, hypergammaglobulinemia and any combination thereof.

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22. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein a symptom of the rheumatoid arthritis is selected from the group consisting of: arthritis in a foreleg or hind leg joint, joint stiffening, appearance of pannus, lymphocyte infiltration into joint cartilage or bone, destruction of joint cartilage or bone, production of rheumatoid factor or autoantibody against type II collagen, hypergammaglobulinemia, and any combination thereof.--
